

Step 3 Determine Which Species To Consider



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Learning objectives

- *Identify which species are to be represented by surrogate species.*
- *Define Priority species.*
- *Document sources of information for identifying USFWS and partner priority species.*

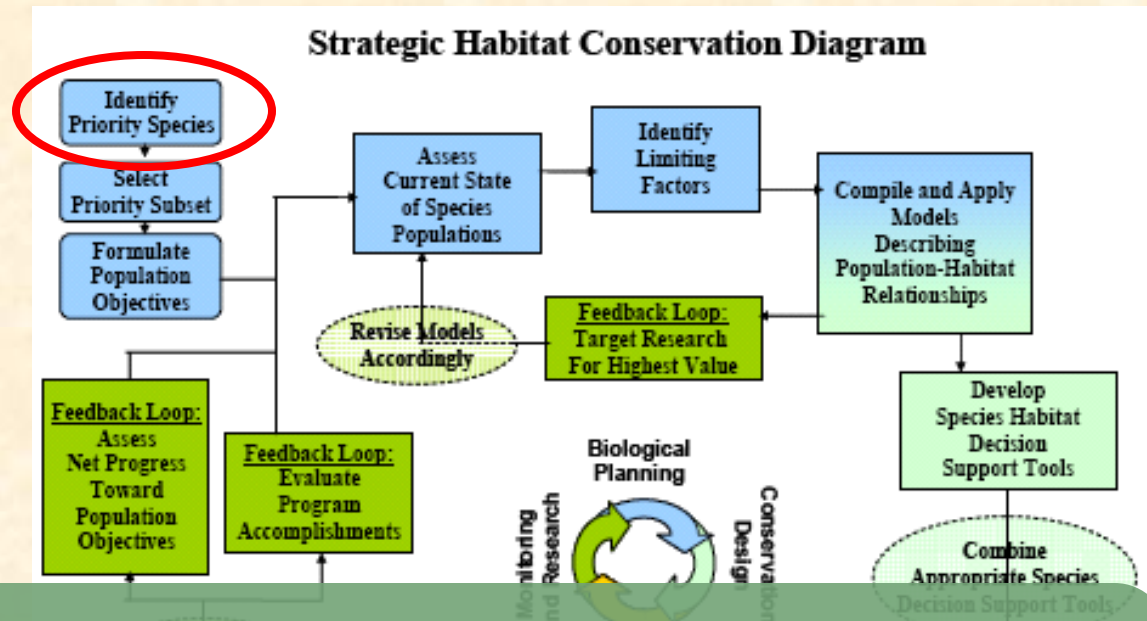


**Sources of
Priority Species List
Provided In
NEAT Report
Element 1,
Sub-elements 1.1, 1.2
(USFWS and USGS 2006)**



Priority Species Lists

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Priority Species List
Provided In
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(USFWS and USGS 2006)



“Although the FWS seeks to benefit all species and to contribute to the health, integrity and biodiversity of ecosystems, we have an obligation to benefit trust species first and foremost. Ideally we would address the needs of all trust species with equal energy, but with limited resources, it becomes necessary to prioritize.”



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Priority Species Lists Provides Pool of Potential Surrogate Species

Potential Surrogate Species

USFWS Priority Trust Species

- Priorities species are defined as those demanding extra time and resource commitments due to legal status, management need, vulnerability, geographic areas of importance, financial or partner opportunity, political sensitivity, or other factors.”



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Potential Surrogate Species

USFWS Priority Trust Species

- Federal Trust species include: migratory birds, threatened and endangered species, inter-jurisdictional fishes, and some marine mammals.
- Regions and Programs have existing lists of priority species, often by taxonomic groupings, at national, regional, and various landscape scales (see NEAT Report).



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Priority Species Lists Provides Pool of Potential Surrogate Species

Potential Surrogate Species

USFWS Priority
Trust Species

Partner Priority Species

- The Service can only achieve its desired biological outcomes by working with states, Tribes, and other stakeholders, so consideration of partners' priorities in the same landscape is paramount for success.



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Partner Priority Species

- Regions will engage with willing partners to identify and compile their conservation priorities.



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Partner Priority Species

- Potential sources of priority species list include FWS Programs (e.g., Birds of Management Concern; List of Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Species; Aquatic Resource Plans), State Wildlife Action Plans, state game management plans, Joint Ventures, Fish Habitat Partnerships, The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, etc



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Partner Priority Species

- A potential surrogate species list will be created for each LCC compiled from priority species lists and
- Compiled list should include associated population objectives (step 7) and other pertinent information (e.g., known limiting factors) where available.



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Strategies To Consider

- Document potential sources for identification of priority species.
- Describe engagement strategies for partners
- Evaluate potential sources and document selection process
 - Which species were selected?
 - What criteria were applied and what information was available?
 - Assumptions, biological models, decision support tools, and/or other scientific information was used



Activity

Spend a few minutes with your neighbor(s) jotting down information that would be needed for potential surrogate species lists (e.g., priority species, population objectives, limiting factors, etc), what might not be available, and how might this information (or lack of available information) influence the potential list of surrogate species?



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